



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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Man Convicted of Voluntary Manslaughter While Armed In Slaying at Washington, D.C. Carry-Out

WASHINGTON - Adrian Terrance Lee, 35, was found guilty yesterday of killing a man outside a Northwest Washington carry-out restaurant in February 2009, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced today.

Lee, of Washington, D.C., was found guilty of voluntary manslaughter while armed and carrying a deadly weapon in the slaying of 22-year-old Chiagbanwe Ukaoma. A jury returned its verdict after a two-week trial in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

The Honorable Gerald I Fisher is scheduled to sentence Lee on Jan. 14, 2011. Lee was ordered held without bond pending the sentencing.

According to the evidence at trial, the victim and several members of his family went to the Howard China Carryout on Feb. 25, 2009, in the 2800 block of Georgia Avenue NW. They were getting food as part of a celebration of the return of Ukaoma's cousin, who had just graduated from Michigan Technical University. Upon arriving at the carry-out, the Ukaoma family encountered Lee and four of his friends, who were also present and ordering food.

There was almost no interaction between the two groups within the carry-out. However, outside the establishment, one of Lee's friends took offense at Ukaoma's brother. After exchanging words, Lee's friend rushed into the street and began pummeling Ukaoma's brother. Ukaoma and his cousin saw the beating and rushed to help their relative, only to encounter Lee, who held them back in order to keep the fight "one-on-one."

The Ukaoma family ultimately dodged Lee, who was armed with a knife, and came to their relative's help. Meanwhile, Lee and another of his friends joined the fray. During the ensuing melee, Lee stabbed Ukaoma straight through the heart. The victim died shortly thereafter.

Upon his arrest, Lee gave a statement in which he claimed that he had acted in self-defense. The claim was rejected by the jury after his testimony at trial was substantially impeached by his many prior inconsistent statements concerning his role in the offense.

In announcing the verdict, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the work of Metropolitan Police Department Detectives Doug Carlson, Paul Regan, and Thomas Smith. He also praised the efforts of MPD Officers Thomas Coughlin and Pamela Cooper.

U.S. Attorney Machen also cited the efforts of employees in his office, including paralegal Lynette Briggs and administrative supervisor Wanda Queen. He also thanked the outstanding support of the entire litigation services team: Joseph Calvarese, Ron Royal, and Leif Hickling. He expressed appreciation to Katina Adams of the Victim-Witness Unit. Finally, he thanked Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jocelyn Ballantine, who tried the case, and George Pace, who investigated and indicted the case.

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